

## SYLLABUS

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia  
PA 810  
Health Services Research Methods  
Spring 2005

Instructor: Abigail Cohen, PhD, University of Pennsylvania  
Phone: 215-898-9411  
Email: [acohen@cceb.med.upenn.edu](mailto:acohen@cceb.med.upenn.edu) or [acohen@comcast.net](mailto:acohen@comcast.net)

Credits: 3 semester hours

Meeting time: Tuesday 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Textbooks: Health Services Research Methods by Leiyu Shi. Delmar Publishers, 1997,  
ISBN: 0827371330.

Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using SPSS 11.0/11.5 for Windows with SPSS CD-ROM - 5th Edition, by Earl Babbie, Fred Halley, and Jeanne Zaino  
ISBN:0761987980 published by Pine Forge Press.

Presentations and readings: <http://eres.usip.edu/> need passcode to logon.

Evaluation: Grading will be based on class participation (10%), SPSS assignment completion (10%) and research project with paper (60%) and presentation (20%) due at the end of the semester and to be presented to the class, specifics to be disseminated.

This course will cover methods and research design as related to health services research and policy. It will combine an overview of research methods and more in depth examination of specific research methods that may be used to complete research done in the field. The student is expected to have had course work in basic statistical techniques. A portion of the course will learning to use SPSS to work with research data and learn basic statistical techniques standard to health research methods and which will be incorporated in the research paper. A computer that can run the SPSS student version will be needed outside of class. There are computers available on campus and through the Health Policy Office.

### Sessions:

1. 1/18/05      General introduction of the course  
Demystifying research: Introduction to Health Services Research.  
What is Health Services Research? Review of the major components of a research study including understanding of how to define goals, objectives and hypotheses and introduction to general research methods.
2. 1/25/05      Read Chapter 1 in Methods, Chapters 1 & 2 in SPSS  
Discussion: Foundations and characteristics of research methods in health services research  
Lab: Introduction to SPSS Program
3. 2/1/05        **NO CLASS**
4. 2/8/05        Read Chapter 2 in Methods (refer to page 411 in SPSS book and go to internet site and download and read Appendix C)

Discussion: How to conceptualize ones research questions needed to begin the study. Determine own research questions and steps to begin project.

5. 2/15/05 Read Chapter 3 in Methods
  - a. Discuss groundwork needed to outline project and answer questions on page 77 together to determine what your project could include.
6. 2/22/05 Read Chapter 6 in Methods  
Qualitative Designs - Emergence in health services research
  - b. Case oriented research
  - c. "Good" qualitative research
  - d. Designing studies, analysis and interpretationQualitative analysis computer
7. 3/1/05 Read Chapters 4 & 5 in Methods and 4 & 5 in SPSS  
Discussion of research review and secondary analysis methods and introduction to the secondary analysis of data from SPSS book  
Lab: Look at data and frequencies associated with variable
8. 3/8/05 **Spring Break**
9. 3/15/05 Read Chapter 8 in Methods and Chapter 21 in SPSS (refer to page 411, go to internet site and read and copy Appendices D and E) Fill out survey as specified in question 21.1.  
Discuss survey research, construction and methods  
Lab: Input new data
10. 3/22/05 Read Chapter 12 in Methods and Chapter 6 in SPSS  
Continue discussion of survey research, construction and analysis of survey data and lab exercises related to survey questions
11. 3/29/05 Read Chapter 13 in Methods and 7 in SPSS  
Discussion of data collection and processing and presentation of the data once collected and complete lab exercises in class
12. 4/5/05 Read Chapter 14 in Methods and Chapter 8 in SPSS  
Discussion of statistical methods and coding procedures for data analysis and lab exercises, data presentation and crosstabs
13. 4/12/05 Read Chapter 9 in Methods and Chapters 9 & 10 in SPSS  
Discuss evaluation research methods and review other research methods  
Lab: Continue lab exercises
14. 4/19/05 Read Chapter 10 in Methods and Chapters 11 & 12 in SPSS  
Discuss and review design and do lab exercises related to bivariate analysis and interpretation
15. 4/26/05 **Papers due this week** **Paper Presentations**  
Read Chapter 15 in Methods and Continue Chapters in SPSS as determined by class progress  
Discuss implementation of and dissemination of health services research, ethics, Institutional Review Boards and patient confidentiality, informed consent, risk of harm, voluntary participation and right to service
16. 5/3/05 **Paper Presentations**